




Attorney Docket No. 50277-1511

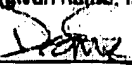
I hereby claim benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 (copy attached) which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application:

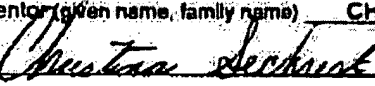
_____ (Application Number)	_____ (Filing Date)	_____ (Status - patented, pending, abandoned)
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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

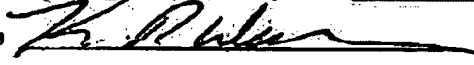
Full Name of Sole/First Inventor (given name, family name) JEAN-LOUIS BAFFIERInventor's Signature Date Dec 4<sup>th</sup> 2001Residence Chanteloup-en-Brie, France  
(City, Country)Citizenship France  
(Country)Mailing Address 57 Avenue de la Jonchère, Chanteloup-en-Brie, France 77600Full Name of Second Inventor (given name, family name) MARC DANGEARDInventor's Signature Date 11/13/01Residence Sausalito, California  
(City, State)Citizenship United States  
(Country)Mailing Address 73 Lincoln Drive, Sausalito, California 94965Full Name of Third Inventor (given name, family name) THIERRY GRUETInventor's Signature Date 12/05/2001Residence Montesson, France  
(City, Country)Citizenship France  
(Country)Mailing Address 53 Avenue Paul Doumer, Montesson, France

Full Name of Fourth Inventor (given name, family name) OLAF ZIEGLER  
Inventor's Signature  Date 12/06/2001  
Residence Munich, Germany Citizenship Germany  
(City, Country) (Country)  
Mailing Address Groebenzer Street 30, Munich, Germany 80997

Full Name of Fifth Inventor (given name, family name) DEAN TAN  
Inventor's Signature  Date 11/14/2001  
Residence Redwood City, California Citizenship Singapore  
(City, State) (Country)  
Mailing Address 816 Intrepid Lane, Redwood City, California 94065

Full Name of Sixth Inventor (given name, family name) CHRISTINA SECHREST  
Inventor's Signature  Date 11/13/2001  
Residence Belmont, California Citizenship United States  
(City, State) (Country)  
Mailing Address 1914 Bishop Road, Belmont, California 94002

Full Name of Seventh Inventor (given name, family name) PASCAL SERO  
Inventor's Signature  Date 11/12/2001  
Residence Foster City, California Citizenship France  
(City, State) (Country)  
Mailing Address 1035 Rudder Lane, Foster City, California 94404

Full Name of Eighth Inventor (given name, family name) KEVIN WALSH  
Inventor's Signature  Date 11/18/01  
Residence Redwood Shores, California Citizenship United States  
(City, State) (Country)  
Mailing Address 380 St. Martin Drive, Redwood Shores, California 94065

**Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56**  
**Duty to Disclose Information Material to Patentability**

(a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is canceled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is canceled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§ 1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

(1) Prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and

(2) The closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.

(b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and

(1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim; or

(2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:

(i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or

(ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

(c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:

(1) Each inventor named in the application;

(2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and

(3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.

(d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.